The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

February 7, 1996 Contact: Denise Horstman, ext. 262

ARCHAEOLOGIST KENT WEEKS TO LECTURE AT ART MUSEUM

(Cleveland, OH) -- The Cleveland Museum of Art will host a lecture by Egyptologist Kent R. Weeks, best known for his discovery in 1995 of the tomb of the sons of Ramesses II (the Great) in the Valley of the Kings. The lecture is on Tuesday evening, March 26, at 7 pm. Tickets are $10 ($5 for museum members) and are now on sale at Advantix outlets or by calling Advantix at 241-6000 or, outside Cleveland, 1-800-766-6048 (plus $2.25 convenience charge per ticket); tickets can be purchased in person at the museum box office. The lecture complements the exhibition **Pharaohs: Treasures of Egyptian Art from the Louvre** (February 11-April 14).

Dr. Weeks' leadership in excavating the largest tomb yet discovered in Egypt has made him an international media magnet and lecture circuit star. Combining a high level of scholarship and dedication to his work with the skill and finesse necessary to bring his work into the hearts and minds of colleagues and laypeople alike, he was recently reported in the *New York Times* to be the first archaeologist and Egyptologist on the roster of the William Morris Agency. In a *New Yorker* profile, archaeology writer Douglas Preston said: "He launches into his subject with such enthusiasm that one's first impulse is to flee. But as he settles back in his rickety chair with [a] skull in one hand and a glass of *yansoon* tea in the other, and yarns on about lost tombs, crazy Egyptologists, graverobbers, jackal-headed gods, mummies, secret passageways, and the mysteries of the Underworld, you begin to succumb."

The museum normally closes at 5:45 on Tuesdays. For the evening of this lecture, the **Pharaohs** exhibition, the Museum Cafe, and the Museum Store will remain open until the lecture begins. (Exhibition tickets at $7 are also available through Advantix.)

(A brief biography of Kent Weeks is on the reverse.)

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Pharaohs: Treasures of Egyptian Art from the Louvre was organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art in collaboration with the department of Egyptian antiquities, Musée du Louvre, Paris. The exhibition is sponsored by Society Bank/KeyCorp with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and the Ohio Arts Council. Promotional support is provided by WDOK 102.1 FM and AM 850 WRMR, and The Avenue at Tower City Center.

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KENT R. WEEKS

Backgrounder

Kent R. Weeks, Director of the Theban Mapping Project and Professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo, was born in 1941 in Everett, Washington. He received his B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Washington, and his Ph.D. in Egyptology at Yale University. He has worked as Assistant Curator of Egyptian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; as Director of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute headquarters in Luxor; and as Associate Professor of Egyptology at the University of California, Berkeley, before coming to the American University in Cairo in 1986.

During the past thirty years, Dr. Weeks has worked at over a dozen archaeological sites in Egypt. For the past decade, he has directed the Theban Mapping Project, devoting much of his time to surveying tombs in the Valley of the Kings. His interests include ancient Egyptian medicine, the origins of Egyptian civilization, and the conservation and protection of Egypt's archaeological heritage. He has written over a dozen books and monographs and numerous articles, and in 1976 was elected a member of the Institute d'Egypte, Egypt's most prestigious scholarly institution. He is married to Susan Howe Weeks, an artist; they have two children, both pursuing graduate studies in the United States.

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